Exports growth target

1174. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the target for growth in exports at sixteen per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the exports growth rate during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to raise the exports growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) An export target of 16% has been fixed for the year 2004-05 in dollar terms to reach a level of US$ 73.4 billion. The target has been fixed, taking into account the export performance in recent years, international trading scenario and the views of the exporting community. As per the data provided by the DGCI&S, Kolkata, the export growth rate was (—1.6)%, 20.29% and 20.36% in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(c) Constant efforts are being made by the Government to promote exports. A Medium Term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the Tenth Plan period (2002—07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of enhancing India's exports. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme introducing "Focus Africa" Programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04 and Exim Facilitation Measures announced in January, 2004, besides, the focus on Service exports and policies to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

National Institute of Design Research Centre, Bangalore

1175. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Institute of Design Research Centre in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether land has been identified;

(c) the amount proposed to be provided during the year 2004-05 for the above Centre; and

(d) the activities of the proposed Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Government has approved the National Institute of Design's scheme for setting up of a Research & Development Centre at Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs 4.80 crore. The scheme is to be funded through the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Depadment of Information Technology, besides by contributions of industries seeking design support of NID.

(b) NID has been allotted land in the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore (CMTI) campus for construction of the R&D Centre.

(c) During the current year, Department of IPP has provided Rs. 50 lakhs for the Centre. Department of Information Technology has already released Rs. 69 lakhs during the current year.

(d) The R&D Centre on completion will have the following research units for design research and development activities:

(i) Design research and development for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for masses.

(ii) Design research and development for Industrial Design in manufacturing and Product Innovation.

(iii) Design research and development for Strategic Design Management and Incubation.

(iv) Design research and development for sensitive design projects including for defence.

Exports of Ayurvedic drugs to EU

1176. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian Ayurvedic formulation exporters to the European Union (EU) are facing tough times following the guidelines for traditional and herbal medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per these guidelines, a newly launched ayurvedic product would have to undergo all efficacy studies like a normal drug and this will make the launch of new ayurvedic products impossible;